霜月かいり
ブレイブ-テン
BRAVE 10
2
KAIRI SHIMOTSUKI
dmg
A Digital Manga Guild Publication

OH WELL ...
SO MUCH FOR ENJOYING A HAPPY CELEBRATION...
SOME OF MY PEOPLE EVEN ENDED UP DEAD...
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU SIX WERE HERE THAT IT DIDN'T END ANY WORSE.
...BUT THIS IS A WAR WITH THE TANUKI.
IT'S UNAVOIDABLE.
...YEAH.

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ISANAMI.
ROKURO UNNO.
BRAVE 10
ブレイブ-テン
Shimotsuki Kairi
霜月かいり
2
..."BRAVES"...?!
JUZO KAKEI.

STRONG WARRIORS WHO'VE CAUGHT MY EYE...
OR ACES I WANT TO RELY ON, I MEAN
YOU MEAN ME TOO?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR JOB'S TO BE CUTE, ISANAMI.
STRONG WARRIORS?
YIPPEE!!
THAT NOT PRAISE.
WHY IS SANADA BEING TARGETED?
A BRAZEN INTRUSION IN BROAD DAYLIGHT IS HARDLY NORMAL, RIGHT?
THIS IS NO TIME FOR TEPID CONVERSATION, IS IT?
YOU WANT TO RELY ON?

THAT PART'S OBVIOUS.
IT'S BECAUSE ...
SPARKLE
I'M GOOD-LOOKING, AND TOO POPULAR WITH THE LADIES.
THAT TANUKI CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO ME!
SILENCE
HEY!! WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION?! DON'T JUST SIT THERE!! CRACK A JOKE!!
...
COME ON, I'M TRYING TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD!!
STARE
THERE YOU GO TRYING TO BE EVASIVE AGAIN.
ONLY A PROPER EXPLANATION WILL SETTLE THIS, FOR US.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
"PROPER" DOESN'T EXACTLY SUIT ME WELL...
WELL, BEAR WITH ME WHILE I DISCUSS MY BUSINESS A BIT.

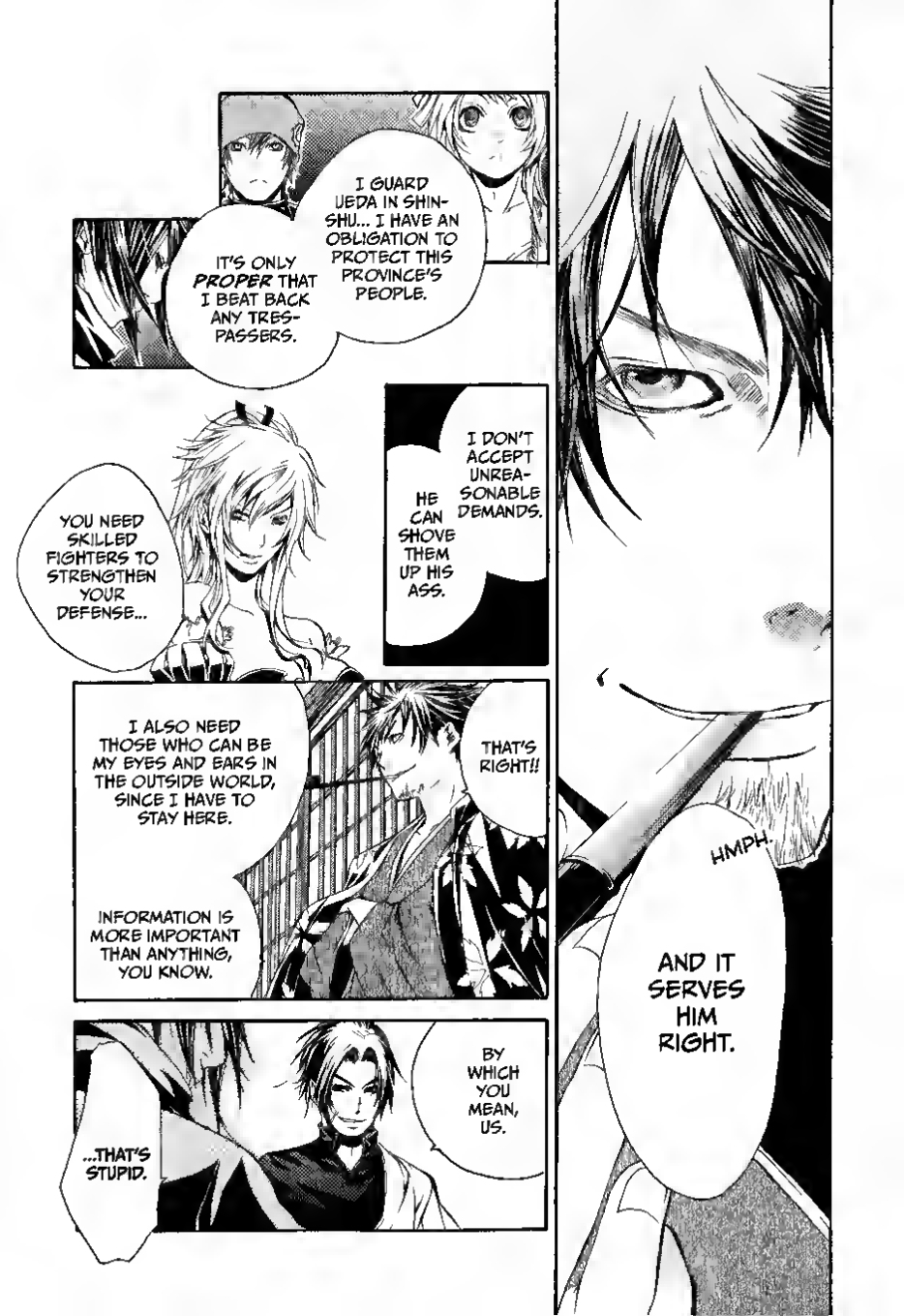
FROM ECHIGO
UPPER SHINANO
UEDA
FROM KANTO
SANADA TERRITORY
THE THING ABOUT UEDA, IS HOW CONVENIENTLY PLACED IT IS.
YOU'LL WANT TO SEIZE IT FIRST IF YOU'RE FIGHTING A WAR.
RWUFF
I SUPPOSE IT'S NO WONDER HE WANTS IT.
LICK
MHM.
YOU SEE, THERE'S A TANUKI WHO'S TRYING TO STEAL THIS SANADA TERRITORY.
I SENT HIM PACKING FOR GOOD, ONCE, AND APPARENTLY HE TOOK IT PERSONALLY.
HHHH
IS THIS LITTLE CASTLE WAY UP IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT IMPORTANT?!
NO NEED TO CALL IT "LITTLE"
BUT THEN, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T KNOW WARFARE.
...WARFARE.
THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU CAN BE SURE, A BIG *SURGE* IS ON ITS WAY HERE.
AS WE SPEAK

IN THE YEAR SINCE HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI DIED ...
THE TANUKI HAS REVEALED HIS TRUE COLORS.
TO DATE, HE'S BEEN SNEAKING AROUND BEHIND THE SCENES...
BUT NOW HE'S TRYING TO SHAKE UP THE SITUATION ALL AT ONCE.

AFTER ALL, THE INNER MINISTER *HIMSELF* GOT BESTED BY A YOUNG SAMURAI FROM THESE HERE BACKWOODS.

B-BUT WHY IS HE SO INSISTENT ABOUT COMING AFTER *YOU*?
HIS HONOR'S PROBABLY HURT.


I GUARD UEDA IN SHINSHU... I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THIS PROVINCE'S PEOPLE.
IT'S ONLY *PROPER* THAT I BEAT BACK ANY TRESPASSERS.
I DON'T ACCEPT UNREASONABLE DEMANDS.
HE CAN SHOVE THEM UP HIS ASS.
YOU NEED SKILLED FIGHTERS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR DEFENSE...
I ALSO NEED THOSE WHO CAN BE MY EYES AND EARS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SINCE I HAVE TO STAY HERE.
INFORMATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S RIGHT!!
BY WHICH YOU MEAN, US.
...THAT'S STUPID.
HMPH.
AND IT SERVES HIM RIGHT.

HMM?!
ACE FIGHTERS, JUST FOR YOUR DEFENSE?
WHEN I COULDN'T PROTECT HER
WHEN I CAN'T EVEN DEFEND
BEING PASSIVE LIKE THAT IS WHAT GETS YOU INVADED.
IDIOT!!
WELL? DOESN'T THAT SOUND INTERESTING, SAIZO?
WHO SAYS IT ENDS WITH "DEFENSE"?!
STAND
FWASS
ANY WARRIOR BORN INTO THIS WORLD WOULD JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO GO AFTER THE ENTIRE REALM!
...DON'T ASK ME.
IT'S SOME KIND OF FATE THAT WE MET!
STICK WITH ME, ALL OF YOU.
IT'S NONE OF MY CONCERN.

...SAIZO?
YOU'VE NARROWLY ESCAPED YOUR DEATH.

WOOP.
KLAK
IT SEEMS I'VE BEEN AMBUSHED ...
AND TRYING TO WALK THIS YOUNG LADY OUT OF HERE WHILE UNDER FIRE WOULD NOT GO WELL.
THIS IS WHERE I DEPART.
ZHFF
... KUH!
I AM DISAPPOINTED THOUGH.
TMP
YOU WERE EASY TO BEAT CONSIDERING HOW EAGER YOU WERE TO FIGHT.
AT LEAST YOUR ALIAS WAS IMPRESSIVE EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T.
UNTIL NEXT TIME.
GRIND
...!!

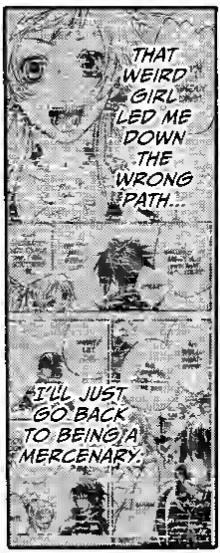
HEY!
YOU OKAY?!
CLONK
CLONK
CLONK
SHGG
OH RIGHT...
ISANAMI!...
SOME-ONE HELP!
OH NO! YOU'RE BLEEDING ALL OVER THE PLACE!
AH! LORD YUKI-MURA!
SOME-ONE
I GUESS THIS GUY S. VED ME.
WHAT A MESS...
TREMBLE
IT'S SO...

PATHETIC.
GOT IT?!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN RELY ON SAIZO
SO I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FAMILY!
I COULDN'T PROTECT HER.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE STRONGER.
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.
STOP IT!! IT'S NOT LIKE I CHICKENED OUT!!
SLND #11
WHEN YOU STAND IN THE LIGHT OF DAY, SAIZO
IT MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER TO GET TRIPPED UP.

I MAKE MY LIVING ASSASSINATING PEOPLE, SO TRYING TO DO SOMETHING THAT'S NOT ME THREW ME OFF.
THAT'S ALL THIS MEANS.

YEAH...
THIS WHOLE PROTECTION THING WAS PRETTY MUCH FORCED ON ME, ANYWAY.

SHNK
THEN THINGS'LL BE SIMPLER... EASIER.


THAT WEIRD GIRL LED ME DOWN THE WRONG PATH...
I'LL JUST GO BACK TO BEING A MERCENARY.

BEING NEEDED BY SOMEONE ...
IS A BURDEN.
AND THROW IT AWAY!
TAKE THAT CRAP ...
CHING CHING CHING
HMM?
...WHAT'S THAT?
SNATCH
SHUT UP!
KEEP OUTTA THIS!
SAIZO...

SHAK
...SASUKE ?!
THUMP THUMP
PRACTICE... IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
HEH! STUPID!!
!

WHY'RE YOU BUSTING YOUR BUTT DOWN THERE?!
YOU GOT *YOUR* BUTT HANDED TO YOU TOO, DIDN'T YOU?!
HEH
IT'S POINT-LESS.
POINT-LESS!
HAH HAH!
IGNORE
WHOA, HEY?!
OH...
SHNK
YEAH ...?
DASH
THAT COMING FROM A COWARD WHO CAN ONLY FIGHT IN A GROUP!!
YOU NOT WORTH TALKING.

WHOOSH
BUHAH?!
GWEH!!

SPLOOSH
!!
!!!!
BLAGH
UHAH!
UHOH
WHAT THE HELL, ASSHOLE ?!
IT'S PRETTY SAD TO WATCH YOU TRAIN SO HARD NOW!!
I KNOW OWN WEAKNESS.
THAT WHY...
I HONE SKILLS.

LORD YUKIMURA NEED ME.
I PROTECT UEDA! I PROTECT SANADA!
...WHO CARES ABOUT PROTECTING?
THAT'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE!!
I HATE STUFF LIKE THAT!!
SCRATCH
HATE?!
NO!
YOU UNABLE.

YOU UNABLE...
ADMIT OWN WEAKNESS.
STOP IT!!
!!
TMp
KA-PHOOSH!!
BUH!!
UP YOURS!

EXTEND
SWISH
SWISH
AS IF ONCE WASN'T ENOUGH ...
I'LL KILL YOU!!
KEEP CLIMB BACK UP.
YOU NEEDED.

CAN GET STRONGER,
FOR SOMEONE.
I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU TALK THIS MUCH BEFORE.
AND YOU SAID SOME GOOD THINGS, SASUKE!
!!
CLAP
FOR SOMEONE...
CLAP
CLAP
SHOOT
OH. HE RAN OFF
BLUSH
L-LORD YUKI-MURA?!
SO, WHAT'LL IT BE?

ARE YOU GOING TO CLIMB OUT OF THERE?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO AVOID LOOKING AT YOURSELF...
AND GO LIVE LIKE A DEFANGED DOG?
GLOOGH
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
LIKE HELL!
THEN THERE'S SOMETHING I'D VERY MUCH LIKE YOU TO DO.
I DON'T TRUST THAT "VERY MUCH" PART...

ACT.7 The Worst Lineup an extraordinary girl

LET'S SEE.
EXTRA CLOTHES
CANTEEN AND SLEEPING BAG!
SAIZO AND I ARE GONNA BE ALLLL ALONE ON THIS TRIP!!
MHMH-MHMMM.
OH.
LIP-STICK!
I'LL BRING LIPSTICK AND INCENSE!
UM. I'M PRETTY SURE THEY'RE IN HERE
...OW!

...
WHAT'S THIS...?
GATA
HEY?! LET'S GO!
OKAYYY!
THAT'S A LOT OF LUG-GAGE

YOU WANT ME TO GO TO IZUMO ?!
AND TAKE ISANAMI WITH ME?!
THEN WAS THERE EVER ANY POINT IN SHELTERING HER HERE?!
HUH?!
JUST SIT DOWN FOR A BIT.
IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CLEAR UP.
YOU MEAN, WHY IZUMO WAS AT-TACKED ....
RIGHT ?
I FOUND THAT.
HOLD ON. WHO THE HECK IS THIS GUY?
MHMM KAKEI'S ALREADY DONE A LOT OF INVESTIGATING
WHUD
KAKEI!

I AM JUZO KAKEI.
I BEG YOUR PAR-DON.
IT TURNS OUT THAT I SERVE LORD YUKIMURA.
...AND WHO ARE YOU, WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO ADDRESS HIS ELDERS?!
GIVE YOUR OWN NAME BEFORE ASKING SOMEONE ELSE'S?! YOU MUST NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH IF YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT, SON.
ACCORDING TO THE IN-FORMATION I LEARNED,
EVEN AFTER TOKUGAWA BURNED IZUMO TO THE GROUND, HIS PEOPLE REMAINED THERE FOR A CONSIDERABLY LONG TIME
WELL ...
RMMMBL
I DON'T LIKE THIS OLD DUDE...!
WHAT'S YOUR SISTER'S PROBLEM...?
CUT IT OUT, YOU TWO.

...I WONDER WHAT THEY WERE SO DESPERATE TO FIND...
THE SACRED TREASURES AND THE SHINTAI WERE ALL LOOTED..
EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE INNER SANCTUARY, TREASURY, AND BEDROOMS OF THE SHRINE MAIDENS WERE DESTROYED..
*NOTE. A SHINTAI IS A PHYSICAL OBJECT WORSHIPED AT A SHINTO SHRINE AS A REPOSITORY IN WHICH SPIRITS OR KAMI RESIDE.
CHANCES ARE, THEY FAILED TO FIND IT...
AND CHANCES ARE...
WHAT IS IT THEY'RE AFTER?
I DON'T KNOW, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO IZUMO.
THEY DON'T HAVE WHAT THEY'RE AFTER,
AND A SINGLE SHRINE MAIDEN MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
THAT MAKES THEIR RELENTLESSNESS UNDERSTANDABLE.

IF TOKUGAWA'S PEOPLE STILL DON'T HAVE THEIR HANDS ON IT,
THEN SURPRISE, IT MIGHT STILL BE THERE?!
IF WE GET OUR HANDS ON IT FIRST,
...IT WOULD STICK IT TO THE TANUKI FOR GOOD.
THIS MEANS, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE ISANAMI GO SINCE SHE'S FAMILIAR WITH IZUMO.
...BUT IT'LL PROBABLY BE DANGEROUS.
LAUGH OF THE NOBILITY
YOU'RE A MEAN GUY.
HO! HO! HO!
YOU'RE SENDING US THERE, KNOWING THAT?
IT'S WHY I'M RELYING ON YOU.

I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO BE ISANAMI'S GUARDS.
UNDER-STOOD, MY LORD.
SURE, PAL...
TO PROTECT... ISANAMI...
SHE'S IN YOUR HANDS, SAIZO.

YOU'RE SO SLOW!!
THIS IS WHY I DISLIKE TRAVELING WITH GIRLS!!
KAKEI'S GOING WITH US!
I HEAR HE'S TRAVELLED ALL OVER AND KNOWS ABOUT DIFFERENT PROVINCES.
SO WHAT? IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM.
GONNG
GONNG
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
GONNNG GONNG GONG
I DON'T THINK THIS IS QUITE WHAT SHE HOPED FOR
LIFT
!

HOO
HOO
CUTE!!
WHAT A CALL IT HAS
C-
THIS AOBA'S (SASUKE'S HORNED OWL) CHILD.
USEFUL... FOR COMMUNICATION.
WE CAN TAKE IT WITH US?
OH OH.
YOU REALLY KNOW THE WAY TO A WOMAN'S HEART, SASUKE.
Y... YEAH.
THANKS, SASUKE!

WELL, TAKE CARE ON YOUR JOURNEY.
I'M STILL LOOKING FOR MORE HELP.
IF YOU SEE ANYONE PROMISING ALONG THE WAY, BRING THEM BACK.
WHAT'S WITH HIM, ANYWAY?
—!!
SHAFF
HE RAN OFF AGAIN.
HE'S SO BASHFUL.
WOMEN IN PARTICULAR WILL RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME!!
HERE'S HOPING FOR HOT TIES!
HE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
OH REALLY?
EVEN WHEN YOU'VE ALREADY GOT ME?
OHOH ♡
SMOOCH
AWW
WHAP

IT'LL BE NICE TO TAKE A VACATION FROM ALL THIS FOR A WHILE.
...YOU'RE ALL SUCH A PAIN.
HEY, KOGA MONKEY!!
I SWEAR...
I'LL PAY YOU BACK ONCE WE RETURN.

COME ON, LET'S GO.
WE NEED TO GET CLEAR OF UEDA BEFORE TOMORROW.
OKAY!
YOU OWE A LOT OF DEBTS.
I BET YOU HAVEN'T PAID ISANAMI BACK EITHER.
!!
COME TO THINK OF IT!
WELL.
WE'LL BE BACK, LORD YUKIMURA!
SEE YA!
BYE BYE!
I BET HE'LL GROW STRONGER ON THIS JOURNEY.
RIGHT, SASUKE?
...YES

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GO BACK TO IZUMO.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT LIFE HAS IN STORE.
YOU WERE SO DESPERATE TO GET AWAY FROM THERE, TOO.
IT MAKES IT FEEL RIGHT TO BE HERE.
ISA-NAMI...
AND SO, I WANT TO WORK HARD AND BE USEFUL!
I MEAN, YOU HEARD WHAT LORD YUKIMURA SAID THE OTHER DAY.
I'M A "BRAVE" TOO!
I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT!
...ARE YOU SCARED?
UH-UH. NOT IN THE LEAST!!

AND BESIDES, YOU'RE WITH ME, SAIZO!!
GLOMP
WHOA!!
QUIT CLINGING TO ME!!
OH, WHY SHOULDN'T I?
TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SO BOLD.
RE-ALLY.
...
HO HO
KEEP UP, KAKE!!
HOW CAN I WALK NEXT TO A GIRL DRESSED AS INDECENTLY AS YOU?!
...?
INDE-CENTLY?

THAT'S RIGHT!!
YOUR CHEST IS TOO EXPOSED!!
AND YOUR LEGS!!
WHY NOT? IT'S EASY TO MOVE IN THIS
?
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!!
COME ON, ANA SHOWS OFF HER CHEST AND LEGS TOO!!
A YOUNG WOMAN SHOULD NOT PUT HERSELF ON DISPLAY!!
THAT'S WRONG TOO!!

THIS GUY'S UPTIGHT...?!
HUH ?! SAY WHAT ?!
ANA'S A NINJA, SO SHE HAS TO DO THAT FOR HER JOB!!
THEN WHY DO YOU ONLY SAY IT TO ME?!
GOOD GRIEF... I WOULDN'T EVEN WANT TO BE WITH YOU...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR LORD YUKIMURA'S ORDERS!
I'M ASHAMED TO WALK ANYWHERE NEAR YOU!
YOU'RE CHATTERING AWAY!!
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT JOURNEY, BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GREAT...
THIS MIGHT BE THE WORST LINEUP EVER...
LISTEN WHEN SOMEONE SPEAKS TO YOU!!
DASH
OH?! A SWEETS SHOP! ♡♡

* WE HAVE MITSUNAME
THIS, AND THIS, AND THIS!
OH. AND THIS TOO, PLEASE!
COMING RIGHT UP!
MMM!!
HAPPY!!
WITH A DISCOUNT, THAT'S 100 COPPER COINS.
A HUN-DRED ?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO SPEND ALL OUR TRAVEL MONEY BEFORE WE EVEN LEAVE SHINSHU?!
STRESS
BUT A GIRL CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT SWEET STUFF.
COME ON, LET'S GO! WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF DAY-LIGHT!
H-HEY, HOLD ON.
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE CAMPING OUT...
ARE YOU TALKING THE MOUN-TAIN TRAIL FROM HERE?
YEAH.
?

1. BEANS 2. RICE 3. CHANGE 4. SOY 5. AMANATTO

YOU'D BETTER NOT.
THERE'VE BEEN WILD RUMORS LATELY ABOUT MAN-EATING WOLVES THERE!
MAN-EATING WOLVES?!
NO PROB-LEM.
SOUNDS LIKE A CHAL-LENGE.
EH?!

HUH?!
WE'RE SLEEPING HERE TONIGHT?!
NOOO! I WANT TO SLEEP IN A FUTON!
I WANT TO TAKE A BATH!
DON'T BE SELFISH!
IT'S A LONG WAY TO IZUMO! WE HAVE TO BE FRUGAL!!
KAKEI, LET'S DO THE WATCH IN SHIFTS
I'LL SLEEP FIRST.
YAWN
THAT'S FINE BY ME.
KAKEI AND I ARE HERE, SO YOU'LL BE FINE.
ENHHH...
I HATE SLEEPING OUTSIDE...
IT REMINDS ME OF SCARY THINGS...
HNNNN...

HUHHH?!
THEN I'M GOING TO SLEEP WITH YOU!
IT'S TOO CRAMPED!
GET A LITTLE CLOSER, SAIZO.
HAHH ..?!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ..?
ALL THE TIME!!
EHEHEHEH. NICE AND WARM!!
THEY SLEEP TOGETHER?!
WAIT WAIT WAIT!!
SAIZO!! COME WITH ME A MINUTE!!
HUHN?!

ARE YOU AND ISANAMI...
HUSBAND AND WIFE?!
HUH?!
WHAT IS IT, KAKEI?
IS... IS THAT IT?!
POW!
I CALLED YOUR WIFE INDECENT!!
IF SO, I'M SORRY!!
OF COURSE WE'RE NOT!!
SHE'S JUST SERIOUSLY LACKING WHEN IT COMES TO SHYNESS!!
...IS THAT SO?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE WOULD SLEEP WITH A MAN, THEN.
APPARENTLY SHE WAS RAISED VERY GUARDEDLY IN IZUMO.
SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD WORKS.
SPEAKING OF THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE LORD YUKIMURA MADE ISANAMI ONE OF HIS BRAVES...?
SHE'S NOT A NINJA LIKE ANA.
SHE'S JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL.

SAIZO'S TAKING FOREVER ...
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
GRRRGLE
EAT THESE SPARINGLY THEY WERE EXPENSIVE
OKAY!
STAYING AWAKE MAKES ME HUNGRY.
I'LL HAVE SOME CANDY!
ONE! I'LL JUST HAVE ONE!

EHEHEH! NOW WHAT SHOULD I HAVE?
CLAK
!
GRRR

GACHING
!!
GRAHH
SHF SHF SHF
...!!
CHIK
...!
...
AH!
...AH!

GRAU!!
GRRRR
WH-WHAT DO I DO?! S-SAIZO...
MY VOICE ISN'T
PUSH
AH...! AH...!
WOOF
!!
GUNGE

WHOM
...!!
CHK

BOOM
SSSSSS

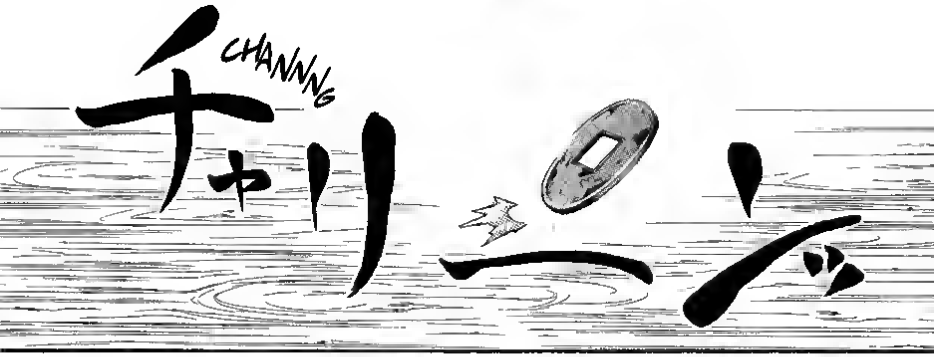
OHHHHH
HEY?! ISANAMI!!
WHAT'S GOING... ON HERE ...?
SAIZO!!
WAAH!
I WAS SO SCARED!
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S... NOT JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL...

THIS PLACE IS KINDA INCREDIBLE!
IT'S NOTHING BUT CLIFFS.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT POWER OF ISANAMI'S...?
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER BEING A SHRINE MAIDEN?!
NO...
IT'S KIND OF TOO...
SINISTER FOR THAT...
SAIZO!!

LOOK, LOOK! THERE'S A MOUNTAIN RIDGE RESTAURANT. ♡♡

ACT.8 Whirlwind Valley the eye of a typhooo

SOBA, SOBA!
MM-YAY!
I'M SO HUNGRY!
...SAIZO, HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE ON YOU?
YEAH... LET'S SEE...


CHANNG
チャリーン

WE'RE POOR...

WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?!
WE LOST ALL OUR STUFF IN THAT EXPLOSION, DIDN'T WE?!
OUR EXTRA CLOTHES, OUR MONEY, EVERYTHING!!
NOT LISTENING
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE SOME SOMA.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ..?
BUT WE BOUGHT NEW STUFF.
NEW CLOTHES
YEAH, WITH MY AND KAKEI'S STASH.
NEW CLOTHES AND SET OF IMPLEMENTS
..OKAY ALREADY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP BLAMING ME.
I'M TRULY THANKFUL I WAS CARRYING SAAYA AT THE TIME.
FAVORITE GUN
SQUEEZE
THIS
IF YOU'D TURNED MARICI INTO A KITCHEN KNIFE, I WOULDN'T EVEN BE WILLING TO LOOK AT YOU.
FOR REAL

EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHY THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THAT...
I WAS JUST SCARED ...
AND SAIZO, YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP...
EVEN THOUGH WOLVES WERE ABOUT TO EAT ME.
STARE
URG
BESIDES, I'M THE ONE...
WHO'S MOST SCARED OF THAT POWER THING...
SNFF.
DON'T CRY!! I'M SORRY, OKAY?!
HERE YOU GO.
OH. SOBA!
HEY

HMM... IF YOU YOURSELF DON'T UNDER-STAND IT, HAVE YOU BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH ANYTHING?
LIKE A SACRED GEM, OR A SHINTAI...
SOME-THING THAT MIGHT CAUSE THAT...
I SEE. HMM...
BESIDES, A MERE SHRINE MAIDEN DOESN'T GET TO TOUCH THE SHINTAI.
UH-UH, NOTHING.
IT WAS ALL I COULD DO JUST TO GET AWAY, THAT TIME.
DON'T TOUCH THAT!!
OH YEAH, WHAT ABOUT THIS HAIRPIN?
SOME-HOW I'VE GOT A BAD
THAT'S
YOKU
THAT'D BE BAD IF IT FELL OUT!
UH OH

I WAS TOLD TO ALWAYS WEAR THIS, AND NOT LET ANYONE TOUCH IT.
HE WAS VERY INSISTENT ABOUT THAT!
→ SURPRISED
SORRY, SAIZO...
NOT EVEN YOU!!
KUSHIMI-TAMA...?
YES. IT'S AN IMPORTANT GOOD-LUCK CHARM JUST FOR YOU, ISANAMI.
KEEP IT ON YOU AT ALL TIMES.
YOU MUST NEVER PART WITH IT.
OKAY.
...BECAUSE IT'S AN IMPORTANT GIFT FROM THE CHIEF PRIEST.

...NOW IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE WE'RE CARRYING A BOMB WITH US ON THIS TRIP.
AND UPON CLOSER INSPECTION, IT'S JADE, ISN'T IT...?
THAT KIND OF MAKES IT INSANELY SUSPICIOUS, THOUGH.
WELL, ISN'T THE SIMPLE SOLUTION TO KEEP YOU FROM GETTING SCARED?
...A BOMB?!
I'LL BE ALL THE PROTECTION YOU NEED, AS LONG AS I STILL OWE YOU FOR THE SOBA.
I MEAN, YOU KNOW...
...YEAH.

I ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH MONEY.
HAHA!
WE HAD TO BE NICE AND SPLIT IT THREE WAYS.
BUT NOW WE REALLY ARE BROKE.
..THAT DIDN'T FILL ME UP AT ALL.
THANKS, COME AGAIN...
ばっ
さっ
WHEREABOUTS ARE WE?
WE'D BETTER PRESS ON A LITTLE FASTER.
HMM... WE'RE RUNNING BEHIND SCHEDULE.
WON'T THAT BE ROUGH, WITH A WOMAN ALONG?
NO PROBLEM! I LOVE WALKING!
WE'RE AT AZUMI...
I WANT TO GET AS FAR AS KUROBE TODAY...
MT KAGHIMA YARIGATAKE
CHIKUMA RIVER
KUROBE
AZUMI
NO JIRI
GUZAKA
KUROBE RIVER
MT TSURUGIDAKE
OMACHI
KOGHOKU
UOZU
MT TATE
UEDA
MT AGAMA
KOMORO

THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!!
THAT IS, LET'S WALK NOW WHILE WE STILL HAVE THE STAMINA!
...
MHMM... ISANAMI'S RIGHT.
THE EARLY BIRD?!
SHOULDN'T WE HAVE TOLD THEM? THEY WENT TOWARD THE VALLEY.
STINGY CUSTOMERS LIKE THEM? FORGET IT.
THEY PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING WORTH STEALING, ANYWAY!
UH... BUT...
HERE, I'LL CARRY YOUR THINGS
WE CAN MAKE FASTER PROGRESS THAT WAY
TRUE
OKAY

WHAT'S WRONG?
WE HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED ANYONE IN A WHILE.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
WELL... BUT THEN, SOME DAYS ARE LIKE THAT.
...THIS IS STRANGE.
I HOPE THAT'S ALL IT IS.
UNHH... I'M HUNGRY.
BUT I'VE GOT TO PUT UP WITH IT.
MHMM.

RUN
AND I WILL!
ISANAMI?!
SAIZO! SOMEBODY'S IN SOME TROUBLE!!
COME QUICK!!
HEY..! HOLD ON..!! DON'T JUST GO AND..!

ARE YOU OKAY? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
ARE YOU HUNGRY? (BECAUSE I AM)
I GUESS...
I WRENCHED MY LEG...
N-NO...
I MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR, BUT THE SWELLING'S GOTTEN WORSE...
OH NO! WE'D BETTER TREAT IT...
NO! I DID THAT MYSELF EARLIER...
IT'S JUST... THERE'S A SUSPENSION BRIDGE WITH TRICKY FOOTING UP AHEAD...
I DON'T THINK I CAN CROSS IT WITH MY LEG IN THIS SHAPE...
THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN ISN'T FAR FROM THERE. I JUST NEED TO CROSS THE BRIDGE...
WELL, WE'RE HEADED THE SAME WAY SO LET'S GO TOGETHER!

RIGHT, SAIZO?! YOU CAN'T IGNORE SOMEBODY IN TROUBLE, CAN YOU?!
YOU'RE A NICE GUY!
...
I DON'T SUPPOSE WE CAN LEAVE A WOMAN HERE ALONE.
HOW ABOUT WE SEE HER TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN?
...
YEAH, I GUESS WE SHOULD...
CAN YOU STAND ?
Y- YES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
TMP
...!
E- EXCUSE ME...
AH.
STAGGER

OH!
LOOK, LOOK! THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE!
WOWWW!!

I CAN SEE THAT FROM HERE.
YOU'D DIE IF YOU FELL FROM HERE.
IT'S INCRED-IBLE DOWN THERE!
PEEK
I'LL BE OKAY.
N-NO, NO NEED!
I COULD CARRY YOU ON MY BACK.
CAN YOU DO THIS?
LET'S HURRY AND GET ACROSS.
OKAY!
UH-UH, NOT AT ALL!!
I'VE REALLY PUT YOU THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE...

KAKEI!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
I-I'LL GO ONCE YOU'RE ALL ACROSS...
YOWWW. THIS GIVES ME GOOSE BUMPS.
GRRW
GRRW
GRRW
OH YEAH?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL IF YOU LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD.
ARE YOU AFRAID OF HEIGHTS?!
NEVER YOU MIND!!
SO, EVEN *YOU* HAVE YOUR WEAK POINTS.
DON'T TEASE YOUR ELDERS!!

FWOOSH
WHAT THE?!
BWOOOOSH
WIND?!
!!

EEEEK!!
THUD
!!
AW, HEY.
THERE'S NOTHIN' WRONG.
WHAT'S WRONG, ISANAMI?!
BOSS!!

KAMANOSUKE YURI HERE'S JUST GONNA TAKE ALL YOUR VALUABLES!
THIEVES !!
WE DON'T *HAVE* ANY VALUABLES!!
MY BACK'S *KILLIN'* ME.
AHHH, PRETENDING TO BE A WOMAN TIRES ME OUT.

OH REAAALY.
...UNHH.
THIS BITCH'S HAIRPIN!
IT'S JADE, ISN'T IT?
YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY WELL OFF, AREN'T YOU?
KH!
SHAA
CHIK
AH...
NO YOU DON'T!!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM MY WINDS.
HEH!
JUST SIT TIGHT RIGHT THERE, NINJA!
WHAT?!
WHEN I PRETENDED TO STAGGER EARLIER AND TOUCHED YOU, YOU WERE LOADED WITH HIDDEN WEAPONS!
!!
AND BESIDES... YOU CAN'T GET *RID* OF THE SCENT OF BLOOD ON YOU...
AS LONG AS I KEEP YOU AT BAY, THIS'LL BE EASY.

WE LOWERED OUR GUARD SINCE HE LOOKED LIKE A WOMAN, WHILE HE PIECED THINGS TOGETHER.
THAT'S OUR BOSS, ALWAYS GENEROUS!
OHOH. ♡
AFTER THAT, DO HER, TOSS HER, WHATEVER YOU WANT!
TAKE EVERYTHING SHE HAS FROM HER!
THESE BANDITS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!!
HE FIGURED OUT I'M A NINJA...
SHOOM
NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!!
HAH HAH HAH
AND YOU'RE FILTHY!
WHACK WHACK
HE'S GOT HIS EYE ON ISANAMI'S HAIRPIN, SO HE ATTACKED US ON THE BRIDGE WHILE WE'RE SPLIT UP...!

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
AUGH!
WHAM
WHAT?!
SSSSS
WHIP

BANDITS!!
YOU THINK YOU'RE OUT OF MY RANGE OVER THERE?!
THINK AGAIN!!
PREPARE TO GO TO HELL.

ZHOMM
KBLAM
@WAH!
HE HAS SUCH ACCURACY...
SHIT!
KAKEI!!

HYNN
HYNN
HYNN
IF YOU ANNOY ME,
I KILL YOU!
GRAB
CLANK
WHAT'S THIS WIND ?!
SHINK
BLOOM
YURI SICKLE AND CHAIN SECRET TECHNIQUE,
HITOTSUME NO MURAJI!!

WHOM
?!
BUH!
WHAM
HEH!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET!
KAKE!!!
NOW HAND OVER THAT BIT OF TREASURE!!
NO!!
AGHH!
SHUT THE FUCK UP, BITCH!
YOU MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE!

!
KRAK
KRAK
YOU LIKE PICK-ING ON WOMEN, HUH?!
I'LL MURDER YOUR ASS!!
DON'T GET TOO COCKY, THIEF!
SAIZO!
HUH, WOW.

LUNGE
IS SHE THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
EHH?!
WH T'S WITH HIM...?
HEHE-HEH...

SLASH
TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T SAVE HER.
SAIZO-OO!!
TWIRL
DROP
!!

ACT.9 Mortal Combat on the Precipice

the crazy climber

SAIZO.
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING... IS THIS THE END, FOR ME...?!
AHH... SHIT...!
I MET A MASTER I COULD SERVE THE REST OF MY LIFE.
HE'S A REAL GENIUS.
THE PRIDE OF IGA
ALRIGHT... GOOD FOR YOU.
I'M LEAVING THE VIL-LAGE.

HE WAS, STRONG... AND I WAS FOREVER SMITTEN WITH HIS STRENGTH.
HE WAS MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND.
...YEAH... THAT'S ALL A NINJA AMOUNTS TO...!
IT'S THE ONLY REASON WE EXIST.
WE'RE USED AS TOOLS, AND THEN DISPOSED OF IN THE END.

SO THEN,
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
I'LL KILL JUST TO GO ON LIVING.
I WON'T HOPE FOR ANY-THING,
FROM ANYONE.
STICK WITH ME,
ALL OF YOU.
I BELIEVE THAT'S HOW THIS WORLD IS.
THAT ALL LORDS ARE SCUM-BAGS.

SAIZO.
SHE'S IN YOUR HANDS.
SURE, PAL...
AHH... SHUT UP ALREADY...!
YOU THROW MY NAME AROUND LIKE IT'S NOTHING...?!
HA!!
SAIZO.
YOU NEEDED.

ARE YOU OKAY, SAIZO?!
KOFF KOFF ゴリ ゴホ ゴホ
...! QUIT YELLIN' MY DAMN NAME OVER AND OVER...
I ONLY CALLED YOUR NAME ONCE...
?
KUH...! I HURT ALL OVER...
FWUP
I THOUGHT THE FALL HAD KILLED YOU.
IT WAS A LONG WAY DOWN.
...WHAT ABOUT ISANAMI?
BUT THEN YOU'RE A NINJA.

SHE WAS TAKEN. ...I'M SORRY.
SLUMP
THE BRIDGE HAD BEEN SEVERED. I COULDN'T FOLLOW THEM.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I WAS COWARDLY ...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, KAKEI.
I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE THOUGH HIS ABILITIES, EITHER.
WHAT WAS THAT? WIND?
MHMM... YOU COULDN'T SEE IT, BUT THERE WAS A STRONG IMPACT.
PANG
IT STILL HURTS. HE BROKE TWO OR THREE OF MY RIBS.
THAT'S ONE HELL OF A BANDIT.
ALSO ...
ALSO, THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES ...
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE ISANAMI AS SOON AS WE CAN!
RISE
YEAH.

WOOOO
GOT IT?!
SHUT UP, BITCH!!
I'LL CUT OFF YOUR LEGS IF YOU DON'T KEEP QUIET!!
OW OW OWWWW!!
STRAIN
WHY'RE YOU DOING THIS?! AREN'T YOU AFTER MY HAIRPIN?!
THEN JUST...
OHH, THAT? I DON'T WANT THAT ANYMORE.
UNTIE ME, STUPID!!
HUH?

I'LL JUST STEAL VALUABLES FROM SOMEBODY ELSE.
RIGHT NOW, I WANNA ENJOY A FUN *PLAYTHING*.
P-PLAY~ THING?!
...WHAT DO YOU... MEAN..?
THAT NINJA...
HE SURE TRIED HARD TO PRO~ TECT YOU,
-YEAH?!
WELL THAT'S AWESOME AS SHIT.
I JUST *KNOW* HE'LL TRY TO TAKE YOU BACK.

I'VE KILLED LOTS OF PEOPLE,
BUT THIS TIME PROMISES TO BE THE MOST FUN
I WONDER HOW THAT SMUG LOOK OF HIS WILL CHANGE...
SHUUU
KH-HUH!
KH-HUH-HUH-HUH!
HA HA HA HA HA!
IF I RAPE YOU TO DEATH RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.

YOU'RE INSANE!! YOU'RE NOT NORMAL!!
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU..?!
YEAH. I GET THAT A LOT.
BUT DON'T TRASH TALK SOMEBODY ELSE'S TASTES.
TAKING THINGS FROM PEOPLE IS MY SOLE PLEASURE.
YOU LOOK YOUNG, STILL. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO...
WHY NOT GIVE THIS UP, AND LIVE A DECENT LIFE?
YOU'RE HUMAN TOO, AREN'T YOU?!
SCREW THAT!
TASTES ...?! PLEASURE ...?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE?!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO TRASH TALK PEOPLES' TASTES?!
DRIP
..AH!
!!
BESIDES, FOR ME, THIS IS A DECENT WAY TO LIVE.
SAIZO'S GONNA BEAT THE SNOT OUT OF YOU!!

I JUST CAN'T STAND LOW-LIFE BITCHES LIKE YOU!
YEAH, YOU KNOW WHAT?
EH-OH!
UGH...!
EHOH!
YOU TALK SO BIG, WHEN YOU CAN'T ...
DO A SINGLE THING FOR YOURSELF.
GEHOH!
AN IDIOT WHOSE ONLY ABILITY IS RELYING ON A MAN,
DESERVES MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE TO DIE.

UGH..
KUH HAHA!
NOW, HURRY AND SHOW UP.
NINJA.
THAT'S ...
HM?!
I LOST SIGHT OF THEM UP AROUND THERE...

ISANAMI!!
HOW COULD HE..? IT'S LIKE SHE'S...
YEAH, ON DISPLAY.
TCH!
NO.
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY UP..
BUT HOW WILL WE GET THERE?
HE'S BAITING US.
HE WANTS US TO COME.
SHFF
THERE'S A WAY.

THE SHORTEST ROUTE'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.
SHA
SHA
SHA
JUMP
BACK ME UP, KAKEI!
SURE, YOU GOT IT!
SHE'S IN YOUR HANDS, SAIZO.

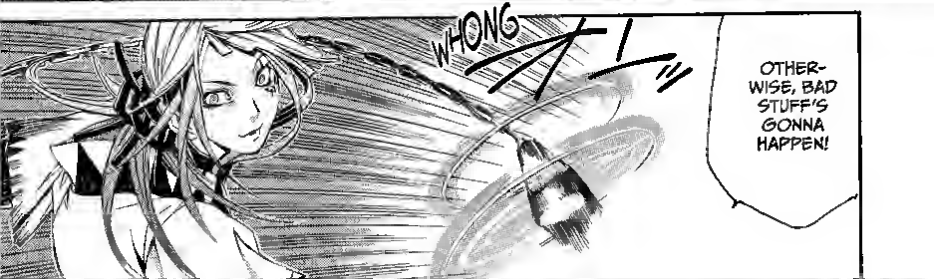
...EVERYBODY TELLS ME THE SAME DAMN THING...
Woooo
GRAB
TMP
HUFF!
HMMP.
...?!
POKE
NGAH?!
KH!
HUH!
WHAT?
THAT WAS CLOSE!!

WOOOO
...WHY AM I BUSTING MY BUTT SO HARD? THIS IS LAME...
GRAB
HAH!
HNN!
BUT...
A GIRL WAS KID-NAPPED, AND I'M SCAL-ING A CLIFF... AM I AN IDIOT?
I'VE SEEN WHAT HAP-PENS TO GUYS WHO TRIED TOO HARD

NGH!
KH!
IT FEELS LIKE I NEED ...
TO SAVE HER.
STRAIN
I CLOSED MY HEART, ONCE,
AND THEY DIDN'T ABANDON ME.
I'M NOT GONNA FEEL RIGHT UNLESS I PAY THEM IN KIND.
HA HH
HA HH
WHUP
SO I GUESS I CAN'T HELP IT IF THIS IS LAME.

CLATA
!
OH.
IS THAT HIM?!
SAIZO...
SKFF

...MAN, YOU PICKED A HELL OF A PLACE TO PUT YOUR CASTLE.
WHO *ARE* YOU, KING OF THE MOUNTAIN?
AHAH!
TALK ABOUT LAME?!
NOW HURRY AND CLIMB UP HERE.


WHONG
OTHER-WISE, BAD STUFF'S GONNA HAPPEN!

EEK!
BWOOM
!!
UNH
...
...
YOU SEE?
CHA
...ASS-HOLE!!

FWOM
STUPID.
SS
FWOOM
UWAH!
S...
SAI~

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST CHARGED STRAIGHT IN.
WHAT KIND OF NINJA ARE YOU?
SHUDDER
LET'S SEE... HOW FAR DID YOU FALL?
MAYBE YOU'RE DEAD ALREADY ?!
HMM?
...I GET IT...
YOU'RE A TOTALLY ROTTEN SON OF A BITCH.
WOOOO
OH!!!

I'M GONNA DO THIS YOUR WAY!!
THAT'S WHY...
GRIND
GRIND
HEE HAH...
LOVE THAT FACE YOU MAKE ...

SSH!
KRNCH
UNGE
SHMM
FWON
IGA STYLE THROWING ART, KOIN!!

* THE TECHNIQUE'S NAME MEANS "WIND GOD PALM".

GRAH!
HEE HAH!
CLANG
COME ON, GET BACK UP.
WE'RE NOT THROUGH YET, ARE WE?!
THUD

NOPE.
VROOM
!!
SHRIEK

WHOOK
AH, SHUT UP.
FWP
HEE HAHA-HAH!!
WHAP
!!
WHOM

WHONG
!!
KYNN
!!
...HEH!
HEHEH...

THEY'VE SEEN SOME DEEP DARKNESS!!
THERE, THAT'S IT!
THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE, ISN'T IT?!
YOU'RE RIPE WITH THE SCENT OF BLOOD...
AND THOSE EYES...
YOU'VE KILLED AS MANY ...
NO, YOU'VE KILLED EVEN MORE PEOPLE THAN ME, HAVEN'T YOU?!
YEAH?!
S-SAIZO ...

ACT.10 confidence

YOU'VE KILLED MORE PEOPLE THAN ME, HAVEN'T YOU?!
WHISPER
SHUT UP...!
KYAA!
YEAH?!
HUH?!
!!
WHOM
!!

PISSED OFF, ARE WE?!
HAHN!!
CHANG
YOUR BACK'S WIDE OPEN!!

FWAP
FWP
GACHING

CLINK
!!
THAT HURT!
HEY!!
FWOOM
THUD
ROLL
CLINK
FLIP
CLINK
CLINK
WELL ISN'T THIS FUN?!
SKKHHH
BRING IT ON! TRY TO KILL ME!!

WHOMMM
SHOULDN'T BE PROTECTING SOME GIRL ON A PLEASURE TRIP!
SOMEBODY WITH A BLOODY URGE TO KILL LIKE YOURS...
KYNN
KYNN
KYNN
YOU LIKE SEEING BLOOD, DON'T YOU?!
YOU LIKE TAKING, DON'T YOU?!
YOU LIKE FIGHTING TO THE DEATH, DON'T YOU?!
LET'S ENJOY IT, BECAUSE WE'RE THE SAME KIND.

...TALK, TALK, TALK TALK.
YOU NEVER SHUT UP?!
SHRIP
SHRED
OHHHH
JUST SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND DIE.
ZZZZZZT

* "GIANT WHIRLWIND"
OTSUMUJI!!*
OM MARICI YEH SVAHA!!
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!!

WHOOM
SHUNKO!!

WHAP
WE CAN KEEP ...
GOING, CAN'T WE?!
JIANNG
SCATTER
HUHN?!

DOL?
WHA...
...AT?
BLOP

SHUMP
...NO WAY... TOO... FAST...
I COULDN'T EVEN SEE IT...
STRAIN
AHHH, WHAT THE HELL?
ALL THIS WARM STUFF DRIPPIN'...
!

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT !!
HEH!
HAHAH- AHAH!
THOSE EYES ARE FREAKIN'...
INCRED- IBLE!!
THEY DON'T EVEN FLINCH AT THE SIGHT OF BLOOD!!
THEY'RE JUST THERE SO YOU CAN KILL!!
NO FEELIN' WHATSO- EVER!!

THEY'RE GREAT!
FANTAS-TIC!
DOWNRIGHT ORGASMIC!!
IT'S ABOUT TO MAKE ME COME!
YOU SON OF A BITCH!!
TURNS OUT IT WAS WORTH USIN' THAT BITCH AS BAIT!
FOR SOME REASON STEALIN' AND RAPIN' NEVER DID REALLY SATISFY ME..
BUT NOW I'LL FEEL SATISFIED!
HUH HAH HAH!
...
MY BODY'S GROWING COLD... I'M FLOATING ON AIR HERE...

COME ON, GIVE ME WHAT'S NEXT!!
STAB ME WITH THAT NAKED BLADE!!
THEN SEND ME TO FUCKIN' PARA-DISE!!
SHOW
LOOM
DO IT.
DO IT!
DO IT!!
I'LL KILL THIS PIECE OF SHIT..!!
ALL I HAVE TO DO...
YEAH, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS STAB

NOOOO!

H-HE CAN'T FIGHT ANYMORE, CAN HE?!
THEN LET'S JUST STOP ALL THIS!
I'M OKAY, ANYWAY. SEE?!
FIDGET
YOU CAME HERE TO SAVE ME, DIDN'T YOU?!
...
SAIZO...
HUH?!
RUSH
...SAIZO?
SHF
SHF
SHF
HAHHH.

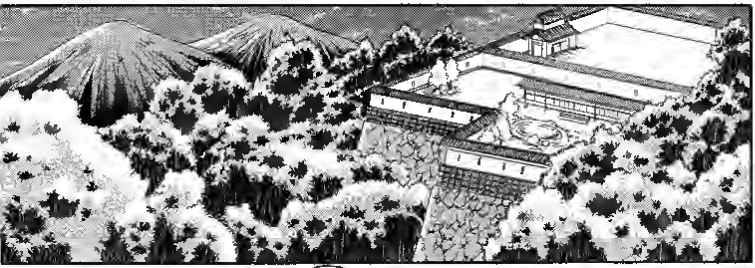
ISANAMI...
YOU SAVED ME.
EVERY-THING'S OKAY, NOW.
HUH?! BUT I'M THE ONE WHO WAS SAVED...
KAKEI.
!
I-I WAS TOO WORRIED TO STAY DOWN THERE!
HEYYY! ARE YOU TWO AL-RIGHT?!
SHMP
WHMP
!

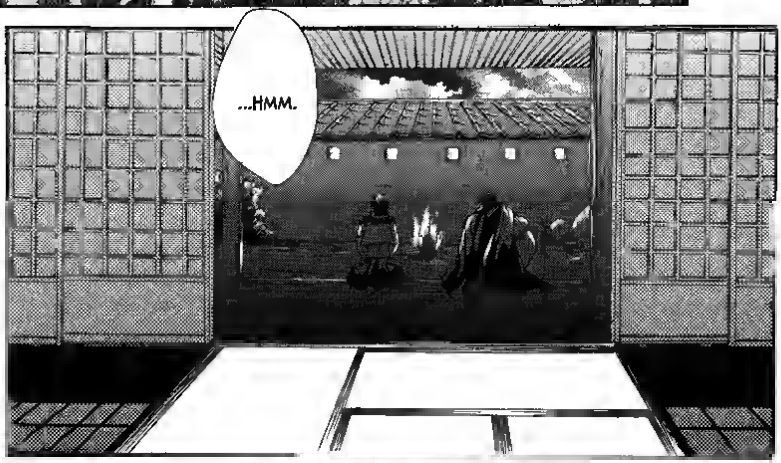
RUNNING AROUND CLIMBING MOUNTAIN TRAILS IS HA—
!!
HOW DID YOU GET THOSE INJURIES, ISANAMI?!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN MARRIED YET POOR THING!
THIS IS WHY I SAID NOT TO SHOW SO MUCH SKIN!!
AND YOU, SAIZO!!
ドドドド
ドーン!!
HOW COULD YOU GET SO ENGROSSED IN A FIGHT YOU NEGLECTED THE POOR GIRL?!
I-I'M SORRY!!
WELL... AT LEAST YOU AND YOUR HAIRPIN ARE SAFE.
WHIP
HUH?
AH...
ぽんっ PAT
!
...
NOPE..

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT THAT POWER ONCE WE GET TO IZUMO.
...YEAH.
I'M OKAY...
ANYWAY, THIS MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR YOU
YOU GOT THROUGH IT QUITE WELL!
YEAH... I GUESS I STILL OWE YOU ONE...
SORRY... YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH THAT SCARE.
しくん
WHAP
HE CAN'T COPE WITH CRYING WOMEN.
WHAP
IT'S OKAY!
NO CRYING, NOW!!
I'M NOT CRY-ING!
LET'S HURRY DOWN THIS MOUNTAIN, AND BE ON OUR WAY!

SCREW THAT!!
DON'T STOP BEFORE THE BEST PART!!
HURRY UP AND KILL ME!!
... SORRY, BUT I'M NOT YOUR KIND ANY-MORE.
I'M NOT GONNA PLAY ALONG WITH YOUR DIS-GUSTING KICKS!
... BESIDES,
I CAN'T KILL A WOMAN. IT LEAVES A BAD...
TASTE IN MY MOUTH.
...HUH?!
A WOMAN?! ...ME?!

STAY ALIVE, AND GO TURN YOURSELF IN TO THE AUTHORITIES.
YOU ASSHOLE!! I'M NOT GONNA DO SOME-THING THAT WEAK!!
KILL ME, HERE AND NOW!!
KILL ME!
GOD-DAMMIT!
GOD-DAMMIT!!




...HMM.

HE MUST HAVE RUN OUT OF PATIENCE...

IEYASU'S TYRANNY DEFINITELY IS INTOLERABLE.
I GUESS HE CAN'T BEAR TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO IT ANYMORE.
* SANADA
IS LORD (MITSUNARI) ISHIDA GOING TO MAKE A MOVE...?
MAYBE HE'S REACHED HIS LIMIT, IF HE'S SENDING SECRET MESSAGES LIKE THIS.
FWIP
THIS CAN'T LEAK OUT.
TRANSCRIBE IT, ROKURO.
AS YOU WISH.

LIFT
KYEEERN
OHHHN
WHIP
THAT SURE IS HANDY.

IN ANY CASE, THE FIRST STEP IS TO SETTLE THIS WHOLE IZUMO THING.
NOW, WHAT TO DO.
SHIFT
KISH
!!

HEADS UP.
DON'T LET YOUR MIND WANDER, WHEN YOU'RE ON WATCH!
ANA...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS ABOUT,
BUT WHY NOT GO SLEEP WITH A WOMAN TO CLEAR YOUR HEAD?
!
JUST LIKE YOUR MASTER DOES?!
...

I'D BE HAPPY TO BE YOUR FIRST TIME.
OH, I KNOW!
!
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW. ♡
USUALLY, YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE "IGA NINJA, DISAPPEAR!"
WELL *YOU'RE* NO FUN.
SCOOT
?
...
HMPH.

...ARE YOU...
TURN
THAT WORRIED ABOUT THEM?!
...NO.
I CONFI-DENCE...
IN SAIZO...

I HATE IGA NINJAS.
...WILL GET STRONGER.
HE COME BACK FOR SURE.
I CONFI-DENCE.
BUT HE STRONG.
SO THAT'S IT. YOU LIKE MEN.
WRONG!!

CONFI-
DENCE,
HUH?
BUT...
THAT'S
A WON-
DERFUL
WORD.
IT'S
ALSO A
LAUGHABLE
WORD...
WHEN IT'S
BETRAYED.
HEYYY,
SASUKE!
I NEED
YOU TO
DO ME A
FAVOR...

MEANWHILE...
WHY'RE WE GOING TO IZUMO NOW...?
YEAH, REALLY.
WHAT'RE YOU DAWDLING FOR?!
PICK UP THE PACE!
SHUT UP, OLD BAG!
YOU GOT IT, MA'AM!
WE NEED TO HURRY AND GET EVEN WITH THOSE SANADA CRETINS!!
IT CAN'T HAPPEN SOON ENOUGH!!
ALRIGHT...
THEN LET'S CATCH UP WITH THEM, ALREADY.

PLEASE, MY LORD, WAIT!!
YOU MEAN TO GO TO IZUMO BY YOURSELF?!
HOW COULD I LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE?!
I WOULD NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT!
YEAH, WAITING DOESN'T SUIT ME.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
THEN COME ALONG, AND KEEP QUIET!
GO BACK HOME, IF YOU'RE GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IT!

I'M REALLY STARTING TO ENJOY THIS.

WOULD YOU CARE TO PLAY, YOUNG MASTER?
HNN?!
ACT.11 The Alighted Dragon the dark lords

AH, SHOGI! SURE, LET'S PLAY!
WHAT WILL WE BET?!
YOU'VE GOT TO GAMBLE WHEN THERE'S A COMPETITION!
THE OTHER 48 SEX POSITIONS
...
THE REALM.

...
THUNK
OH REALLY.

TWO GREAT POWERS ARE ON OPPOSING SIDES.
MANY SAMURAI GATHER TO THEM...
A WAR IS NOW STARTING, ONE THAT CAN'T BE SEEN ON THE BOARD.
THAT'S AFRO-PRIATE.
...NOW, WHAT DOES...
THE HOUSE OF SANADA INTEND TO DO?
ALL INTENTIONS ASIDE, I'M NOT GOING TO MOVE.
.. IS THAT... ME?

* KANJI ON THE PLAYING PIECES SAYS "PAWN".

IF YOU GET OFF TO A LATE START,
IT WILL BRING SHAME.
YOU WANT ME TO LOOK GOOD, HUH?
YOU'RE A HECK OF A RETAINER.
WELL HOW ABOUT THIS?!
CLATA
CLATA
!!
...
...!!
SMACK
SCATTER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE MAKING THESE!!
THIS IS WHAT THE TANUKI (IEYASU TOKUGAWA) IS AFTER.

HE'S TRYING TO PROVOKE LORD MITSUNARI ISHIDA INTO STARTING A WAR,
THEN UPSET THE BOARD ALL AT ONCE.
THE BEST THING TO DO NOW IS SIT TIGHT.
IF WE PANIC AND RUSH INTO THINGS,
THIS IS WHAT'LL HAPPEN.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TANUKI IS SO EAGER TO LOCATE?
NO...
WELL, IT'S REALLY BEEN ON MY MIND.
YES, BUT...

* KANJI ON THE PLAYING PIECES SAYS "FANN"

IF SO, THEN I UNDERSTAND WHY ISANAMI RELIED ON YOU.
THEN DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS, YOUNG MASTER?
IT?
..I JUST HAPPENED TO HEAR A LITTLE SOMETHING, IS ALL.
I'M SURE THE DANGER IT POSES GOES BEYOND THE MERE UPSET OF THIS SHOGI GAME, THOUGH.
SAIZO'S GROUP WILL PROBABLY SHED SOME LIGHT ON IT IN IZUMO.
YOU KNOW HOW CAUTIOUS THE TANUKI IS. HE WON'T MOVE UNTIL HE GETS HIS HANDS ON IT.
TUNK
TUNK
TUNK
SAKE

YOU'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH THAT MUCH...?
I WAS OVERLY FORWARD.
I APOL-OGIZE.
NO NEED FOR APOLO-GIES.
IT WAS INTEREST-ING SHOGI, ANYWAY.
..THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT WORRIES ME, THOUGH.
?
THERE WERE NORTHERNERS MIXED IN WITH THOSE TOKUGAWA NINJAS WHO ATTACKED US THE OTHER DAY.
DID YOU NOTICE?
NO...
THE MAN WHO TIED US UP.. SPOKE WITH AN OSHU ACCENT.
...! YOUNG MASTER, BY OSHU, DO YOU MEAN...?
MHMM.

IT'S WHERE THAT HOT-BLOODED YOUNG FELLOW IS.
THUNK
GTUNK
IF HE MAKES A MOVE, I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO JUST KEEP SITTING HERE LIKE THIS.

THERE COULDN'T BE ANYTHING MORE ANNOYING.
...
CHUFF
NOO-OO!!

I... I CAN'T... GO ON...
IT... WAS A... SHORT LIFE...
AND TO DIE LIKE THIS...
NOOO! DON'T DIE, SAIZO!!
SAIZO!!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE JUST FROM HUNGER!!
COUPLES COMEDY ACT, SHUT DOWN.

WE HAVEN'T EATEN IN THREE DAYS.
WE COULD HAVE TAKEN TONS OF MONEY FROM THAT PERVERT IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED ME.
YOU NEED TO TRAIN HARDER, SAIZO!!
YOU CAN TOUGH YOUR WAY THROUGH HUNGER!!
DON'T BE UNREASONABLE!!
WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO?!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
HEYYY!
LET'S JUST USE THAT LITTLE OWL TO SEND A LETTER BACK TO OL' YUKIMURA. (ASKING HIM FOR MONEY, OF COURSE)
THAT MONEY WAS STOLEN FROM PEOPLE!!
IT WOULD HAVE MADE US THIEVES, TOO!!
YOU PICK THE MOST INCONVENIENT TIMES TO BE STUBBORN...
CLEAR THE WAY!
BUSY!
HOW CAN WE, WHEN HE GAVE US SO MUCH WHEN WE LEFT...?
DAMN IT!
SORRY, COMING THROUGH!
APPROACH

FWUP
UP WE GO!!
AHHH, I'M TOO EXHAUSTED TO EVEN MOVE...
HANG IN THERE, SAIZO!
*NOTE: BANNER HAS THE NAME OF THE TROUPE ON IT. THEY ARE "THE HAPPY GO LADIES"
AH... TRAVELING PER-FORMERS.
THEY'RE A TROUPE THAT GOES AROUND SINGING, DANCING, AND DOING ACROBATICS.
TRAVELING PERFORM-ERS?
DANCING... ACROBAT-ICS...
COME ON!!
GET OUR FLAG UP!!
COME ON, HURRY AND SET UP!
YOU GIRLS, GO PRAC-TICE!!
WE'VE GOT TO EARN LOTS OF MONEY!!
APPARENTLY IT'S AN ALL-WOMEN TROUPE...

CAP-TAIN...
NOGIKU'S GOT, YOU KNOW, THAT.
UGHH... I FEEL SO BLOATED...
HUHH?!
THAT'S JUST GREAT... NOGIKU'S ACROBATICS ARE OUR BIG DRAW...
HANA! CAN'T YOU FILL IN?!
ME?! NO WAY!!
HOP HOP
HEY, OVER HERE! I CAN DANCE!
ISA-NAMI?!
... DIDN'T THINK SO.
WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST NOT TO STAND OUT...
WE NEED MONEY, DON'T WE?!
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO SAVE YOU TWO!

MEANWHILE...
AHHH, SO BORING...
THEY SENT US ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE.
GO LOOK FOR THEM, THEY SAID, BUT WHAT ARE THE CHANCES WE'LL *FIND* THEM?
OH, THERE GOES A VILLAGE!
Unmotivated!
YEAH, I'LL SAY. AND IT TOOK A WHILE BEFORE WE EVEN KNEW THEY'RE HEADED FOR IZUMO.
I'M MORE CUT OUT FOR *COMBAT* THAN INFORMATION GATHERING, ANYWAY.
MAN, I WANNA FIGHT!
ESPECIALLY WITH THAT GOLD-HAIRED BIG-BREASTED SANADA LADY!!
BAM!
WELL YEAH, I'M THE SAME WAY.
BUT WE'RE GONNA EARN LESS AND LESS IF WE DON'T GET SOME RESULTS SOON.
THAT'S NOT GOOD. WE BARELY SCRAPE BY EVEN AT BEST.
MAKES ME HUNGRY.

I WISH SHE'D DIED THAT TIME, ICHIMARU!
TELL ME HOW YOU *REALLY* FEEL, NIKO!
BUT I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN THAT OLD BAG OKATSU ORDERS US AROUND!
I WONDER WHY SARUTOBI DIDN'T FINISH HER OFF.
...OH!
WHAT?!
RAHHH
SOMETHING'S GOING ON, NIKO!!
HNNN?!
* IZUMO GRAND SHRINE

STEP RIGHT UP!
YOU CAN PAY AFTER YOU WATCH!
YOU'RE MISSING OUT BIG IF YOU MISS THIS!
OOOOH!
TAC
...IS SHE GOING TO BE OKAY?
CAN SHE REALLY DANCE?!

SHE'S A MATCHLESS BEAUTY FROM IZUMO!
YOU WON'T SEE A BETTER ACROBATICS SHOW!
FWUP
KYLEEAN
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
PLEASE ENJOY MY DANCE.

TOK
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
I'M AMAZED SHE CAN DANCE ON TOP OF THAT NARROW POLE!
MURMUR
SH-SHE SURE IS CUTE.
TUMP
TUMP
THAT DANCER IS ADORABLE!
HNNN.

PLANK
LEAP
SHOCKED
WHOA!! SHE JUMPED!!
EEEK!!
!!
CHOK

AHHH!
TUMP TUMP
TWIRL
SWAP
BEEEN

THAMP
TOK
TUMP
KAKE!, OVER THERE...!
YEAH!
FANTASTIC!!
RAAHH!

THUD
HERE, THIS IS YOUR SHARE!
...!! THIS MUCH?!
WE MADE A KILLING, THANKS TO YOU!
YOU'RE AN IN-CREDIBLE DANCER!
CAN I INTEREST YOU IN JOINING OUR TROUPE?!
YOU'D BE DOING US A FAVOR!
ISANAMI! LET'S GET A MOVE ON!
OH...
OKAY!!
BOW
WE APPRECI-ATED THIS.
WELL HEY, SO DID WE!
...
EHEHEH.

BYE BYE, THEN!
THANKS FOR LETTING ME JUMP INTO YOUR SHOW.
...SHE MIGHT BE A FAMOUS DANCER SOMEDAY.
SHE'S A SENSATION.
HEY, WHY'RE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY...?
IT'S THEM!!
SHA
SHA
THEM WHO ...?
THE TOKUGAWA GUYS ARE HERE!

IF THOSE TWO ARE HERE, THAT MEANS ...
HANZO HATTORI'S HERE TOO...
SHFF
O-OKAY!
ANYWAY, LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!!
MAN! THAT WAS A GREAT SHOW WE SAW, NIKO!
IT WAS SO IMPRES-SIVE!
GLAK
...GREAT SHOW? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
!

THERE'S NO TRACE OF 'EM.
THEY MUST ALREADY BE AHEAD OF US!
OH! I FORGOT ...
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
NOT A THING!! JUST THIS ONE REALLY CUTE DANCER!!
IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
WHERE ARE THEY?
DANCER?
SOME IZUMO SOMETHING OR OTHER GIRL.
HER DANCING WAS SUPERB!
I ENDED UP SPRINGING FOR A DONATION!

A DANCER ...
YOU KEPT US WAITING JUST FOR THAT?!
COULD YOU BE MORE USELESS ?!
SHIFF
I'M GOING ON AHEAD!!
YEAH, YOU GO AND DO THAT!
PAT
...
I FEEL MOTIVATED AGAIN!
WELL, LET'S MAKE FOR IZUMO.
YOU TWO DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.

I HAVE NO USE FOR THE USELESS.
YOUR CONTRACT WITH US IS NOW OVER.
YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
SHAFF
HUH?!
DID WE LOSE OUR JOB?!
AH, SHIT! WE'RE GONNA GET IT IF OUR LORD FINDS OUT!!
W-WE'RE DEAD MEAT!! HE'S A TERROR WHEN YOU MAKE HIM MAD!!
WOOH
BWAH!
WHOA
ドカッ

...
OWWW!
WHO ARE YOU?! I'LL KILL YOU FOR THAT!!
...M-MY LORD?!
LORD MASAMUNE!!
LOOKS LIKE THE REALM IS ON THE MOVE!

VOLUME②

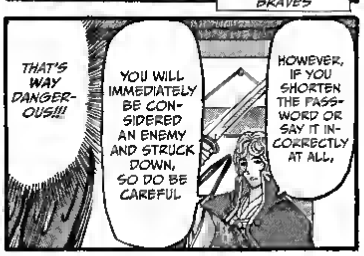
THE END

TO BE CONTINUED
IN VOLUME 3

THE LORD AND HIS TEN BRAVES ①

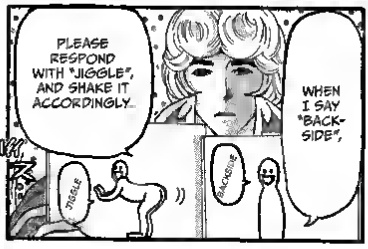
OUR ENEMIES HAVE EXCELLENT NINJAS, AND THEY MIGHT SNEAK IN HERE IN DISGUISE SOMEDAY.
THEREFORE OUR LORD SUGGESTED WE ESTABLISH SOME PASS-WORDS

GOOD THINKING! OUR LORD WANTS TO KEEP US OUT OF DANGER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
JEAH!
THAT'S OUR LORD, ALRIGHT !!
SASUKE SARUTOBI, ONE OF THE TEN BRAVES


HOWEVER, IF YOU SHORTEN THE PASS-WORD OR SAY IT IN-CORRECTLY AT ALL,
YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY BE CON-SIDERED AN ENEMY AND STRUCK DOWN, SO DO BE CAREFUL
THAT'S WAY DANGER-OUS!!!

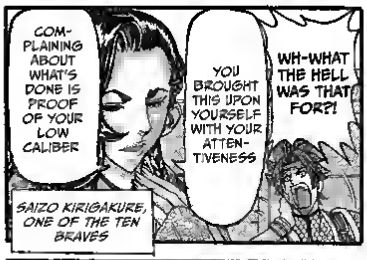
THE LORD AND HIS TEN BRAVES ②

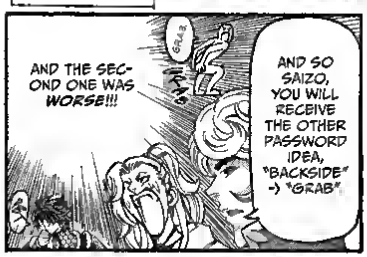
BUT I'LL NEVER MAKE A MISTAKE, WITH MY NINJA MEMORY AND CONCEN-TRATION!
I CAN DO THIS!! IN FACT, THE HARDER IT IS, THE SAFER I'LL FEEL!!
THEN I WILL AN-NOUNCE THE PASS-WORDS



SHIMOTSUKI HERE, ANO I'M A BIG FAN TOO!! MY LORO ANO ME VOLUME 1 IS NOW ON SALE BY MF COMICS. BE SURE TO PICK IT UP ALONG WITH BRAVE 10!!

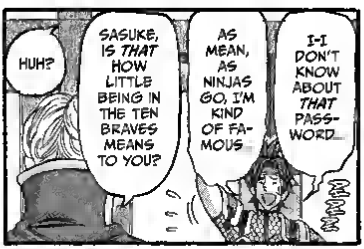
THE LORD AND HIS TEN BRAVES ④


COM-PLAINING ABOUT WHAT'S DONE IS PROOF OF YOUR LOW CALIBER
YOU BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELF WITH YOUR ATTEN-TIVENESS
WH-WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?!
SAIZO KIRIGAKURE, ONE OF THE TEN BRAVES



AREN'T WE BEING NE-GLECTED A BIT MUCH?
UM... ONLY TWO CHOICES? WHAT ABOUT OURS...?
SHUT UP. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, SO YOU'D BETTER DO IT!!
YOU JUST LAUGHED, DIDN'T YOU?!
THE REST OF THEM.

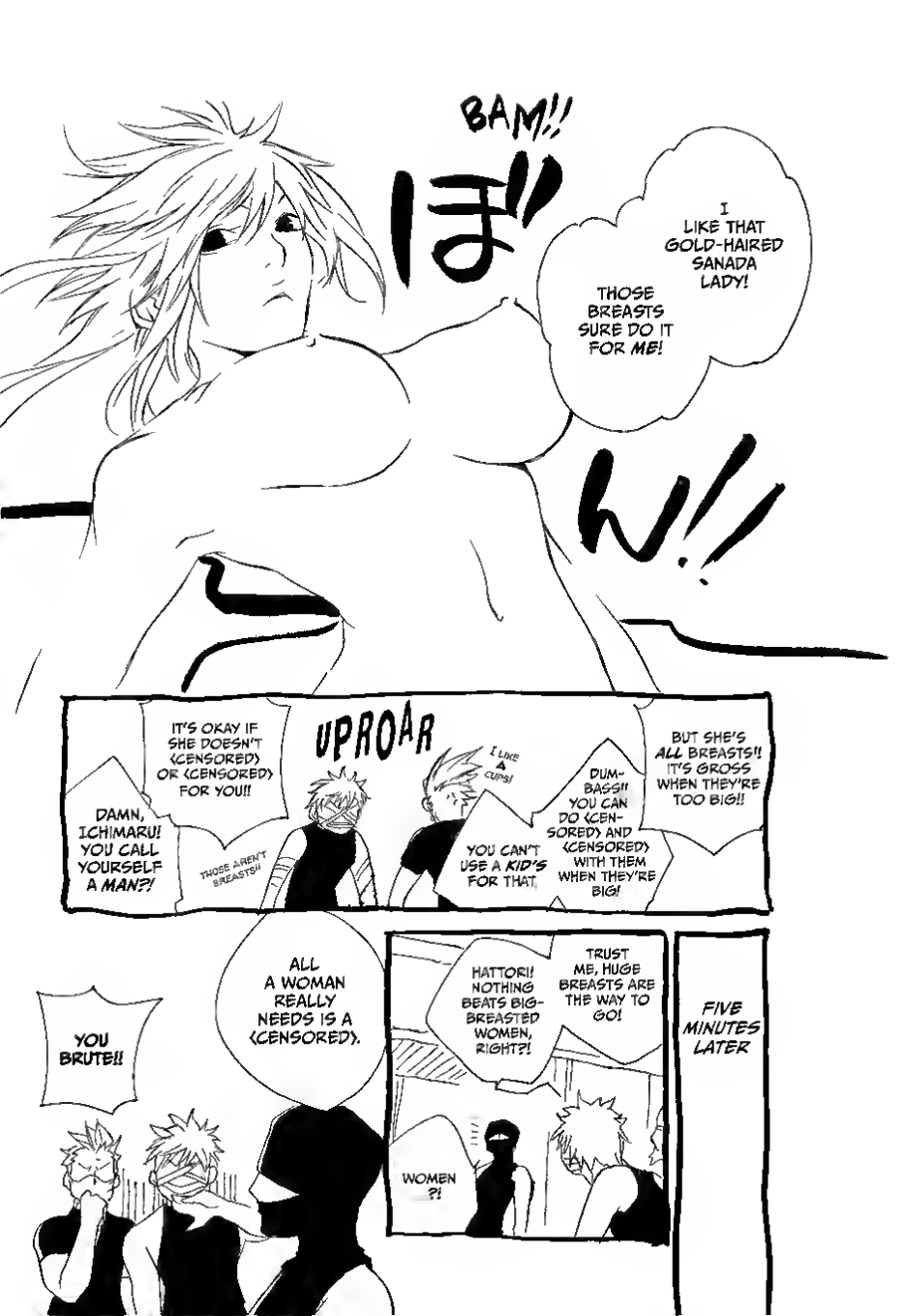
THE LORD AND HIS TEN BRAVES ③


HUH?
SASUKE, IS THAT HOW LITTLE BEING IN THE TEN BRAVES MEANS TO YOU?
AS MEAN, AS NINJAS GO, I'M KIND OF FA-MOUS
I-I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT PASS-WORD...
BLUSH

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3!

A BONUS MANGA.
THE TEAM'S AT RISK OF BREAKING UP

YOU EVEN MADE A DONATION! ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
WE'RE DESTITUTE, AREN'T WE?!
一丸と弐虎の日々然々
ICHIMARU AND NIKO'S DAILY GRIND
BOO
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?! YOU DON'T SEE A GIRL LIKE HER VERY OFTEN!!
DO ONE BAD DEED EVERY DAY.
SHE WAS HELLA CUTE, YOU KNOW!!
WHAT, THAT KID?!
KID?! YOU DON'T GET IT, NIKO!
SLENDER BODIES LIKE HERS ARE THE BEST!
PISSED...
LOLITA COMPLEX, DUDE
THEN WHAT TYPE DO YOU GO FOR, NIKO?!
...ME?!


BAM!!
I LIKE THAT GOLD-HAIRED SANADA LADY!
THOSE BREASTS SURE DO IT FOR ME!
UPROAR
DAMN, ICHIMARU! YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?!
IT'S OKAY IF SHE DOESN'T ‹CENSORED› OR ‹CENSORED› FOR YOU!!
THOSE AREN'T BREASTS!!
I LIKE A CUPS!
YOU CAN'T USE A KID'S FOR THAT
DUM-BASS!! YOU CAN DO ‹CENSORED› AND ‹CENSORED› WITH THEM WHEN THEY'RE BIG!
BUT SHE'S ALL BREASTS!! IT'S GROSS WHEN THEY'RE TOO BIG!!
FIVE MINUTES LATER
TRUST ME, HUGE BREASTS ARE THE WAY TO GO!
HATTORI! NOTHING BEATS BIG-BREASTED WOMEN, RIGHT?!
WOMEN ?!
ALL A WOMAN REALLY NEEDS IS A ‹CENSORED›.
YOU BRUTE!!

· AFTERWORD ·

✤ Hello, everyone. This is Kairi Shimotsuki.
Volume 2 of Brave 10 is out! Thank you so much.
The new characters this time are Kamanosuke pervert Yuri and Masamune eyepatch Date! Adding new characters like this makes some things difficult, but at the same time it's lots of fun. (Date's escort is Oniniwa.)
The story is going to move into its next phase from here, so please stick around and enjoy it.

✤ Oh yes, and I'm very happy that some people have posted on my web site and sent me messages!
I'm really thankful that some of you mentioned the desire to make your own works based on Brave 10.
I would be blessed as an artist if someone made something based on my story! My dream is for someone to cosplay or make a dojinshi based on my manga! (Seriously)
I can't really respond to your messages or bbs posts, but I do look over all of them. Really, thank you for writing them.

✤ Brave 10 will become a drama cd this autumn (or winter).
This is like a dream for me, too.
The voice actors are all very wonderful, so please be sure to give it a listen!!
Okay, I'll talk to you again next volume!!

Kairi Shimotsuki

Brave 10 drama cd,
on sale 11/21!!

(advertisement)

✤ STAFF ✤

· Shino Takaoka · Tokmon
· Mizuyoshi · Haruka Shinonome

I'm grateful for all your help.

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BRAVE 10 2

Kairi Shimotsuki

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BRAVE 10 2

霜月かいり

Because of the blatant attack on his castle, Lord Yukimura Sanada sends three of his Brave 10 warriors on a reconnaissance mission to Izumo. Empowered by being named a Sanada Brave, Isanami embarks on this journey with haste. Along the way Isanami is met with flesh-hungry wolves, and she discovers that she may be more than just a mere shrine maiden. Following this fearful discovery, Isanami is kidnapped by a malicious thief! Will our heroes survive these seemingly ill-fated circumstances? If they do, and with the Date warriors on their tail, what exactly is waiting for them in Izumo?

ACTION | FANTASY | ADVENTURE

Young Adults 16+

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